

Stewart-Hunter receives Commander In Chief's Award for Installation Excellence

See story in next week's Frontline

Falcons Focus on training



Spc. Monica K. Smith

Soldiers from the 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade hurry to board a Chinook from Company B, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment during Falcon Focus, a training exercise at Camp McGregor, Fort Bliss, Texas that concluded July 2. **See Page 3A**

3rd ID honors children at Gold Medal ceremony

Spc. Amanda McBride
4IBCT Public Affairs

Vivianaiy Cimarrusti is just your average seven-year-old. She plays video games and is in a dance class. But Vivianai holds a burden no child should have to carry. Vivianaiy is part of a group of children who have lost a mother or father during Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom. Along with 31 other children, Vivianaiy received the Gold Medal of Remembrance during a ceremony, July 18 at Cottrell Field. The Gold Medal of Remembrance was created in 2006 to honor children who have lost a mother or father in

Iraq or Afghanistan. Seventeen Families lined up one-by-one to allow each child of a fallen hero to receive the sacred medal. The 3rd Infantry Division honored the sacrifices fallen Dog Face Soldiers made and the Families they left behind. "We do lots of recognitions, one for the units, one for the Family, but you wonder through all of those events, even our wonderful tree ceremonies on Warriors Walk, you wonder through all those events (if) the children understand what's going on, understand the depth of support and love the rest of the community, the rest of the unit members have," said Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo, 3rd Infantry Division commander.

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549th MP Co honors their own

Spc. Gaelen Lowers
3rd Sustainment Bde.

Honoring their fallen comrades, the 549th Military Police Company, 385th Military Police Battalion held a tree dedication ceremony, July 16 at Warrior's Walk at Fort Stewart. Specialist Roberto A. Hernandez, 21, and Spc. Jonathan C. O'Neill, 22, were killed when an improvised explosive device struck their vehicle in the province of Pakidiaon. Major General Tony Cucolo, commander of the 3rd Infantry Division, recounted the event and spoke on the

quality of both Soldiers. "Both were fine Soldiers, superb combat military police, both willing to lead the way for their units," said Maj. Gen. Cucolo. "It takes guts to drive, as Spc. O'Neill did, and to be the gunner, as Spc. Hernandez did, in the lead truck on combat patrols in Afghanistan." They had the calm and the edge to react to a Family on their way to market or to be the first to react to enemy contact, said Maj. Gen. Cucolo, knowing that the three or more vehicles behind them were counting on them for everything they saw and everything they said.

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Virginia Tomlinson, aunt of Spc. Roberto Hernandez, adds a "memory" to his tree that was dedicated to him during a ceremony honoring him. He died from injuries sustained during an IED attack while serving with their unit in Afghanistan.

3/69th BFV crews qualify at Table 8

Sgt. Johnathon Jobson
1HBCT Public Affairs

Bradley fighting vehicle crews from Co. A, 3rd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, conducted their crew qualifications, July 10 at the Red Cloud-A range. Bradley crews must complete all of the qualification tables successfully to be considered qualified and ready for combat. There are eight crew qualification tables that take the crews from the basic movements skills through full action of engaging targets while on the move. "Table eight is the culminating

event of Bradley crew gunnery," said Co. A commander, Capt. Melvin Lowe. "Table eight is where you combine all the skills and techniques you have learned in the previous tables, and you put them to the test in one final evaluation." The leadership of the battalion used knowledge from prior deployments and training to customize this table eight for the upcoming deployment. The scenarios of the qualification were changed to match situations the Soldiers will face during their deployment. "The difference in this table 8 opposed to previous table 8 is the scenarios are slightly different.

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Spc. Gaelen Lowers



1/76 FA leaders visit Fort McAllister
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Countdown to Deployment
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1HBCT approaches realism during training
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From the CSM's Desk : Slow down for school zones

Command Sgt. Maj. James Ervin
Garrison Command Sergeant Major

Summer vacation is coming to a close and school will be in session again very soon. I want to remind you about a few key locations and policies on the installation. First, are our school zones.

A lot of people seem confused about where the school zones begin and end. All school zones are indicated by flashing lights at the point of origin, and they continue until the “End School Zone” sign.

Just because you stopped at an inter-

section or made a quick trip into the Bryan Village Shoppette doesn’t mean that the school zone has rendered itself obsolete.

Be aware of your surroundings at all times and adhere to the 15 m.p.h. speed limit during all posted hours.

For parents dropping children off at schools on post, we have the "Kiss & Ride" program.

If you are new to the area, be sure to ask about this process when you regis-



ter your children. "Kiss & Ride" lanes are clearly marked at all schools.

Parking in those lanes is strictly prohibited. If you have any questions or concerns about the "Kiss & Ride" program or designated lane at your school, please speak to your School Resource Officer.

As you travel through the housing areas, be alert for children crossing the streets and waiting for school busses. Physical Training traffic is heavy in the mornings during the

same time that children are travelling to school.

Speeding is simply not an option.

Breakfast and a shower are not worth the safety and life of one of our children.

So slow down, observe your surroundings, and drive no faster than 15 m.p.h. in the designated school zones.

Make adjustments to your speed in the housing areas, as well, to account for the increased presence of children in the mornings and afternoons.

Let’s work together to keep Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield a safe place for our Soldiers and Families!

REMEMBRANCE from Page 1A

“So, to have this Gold Medal Remembrance ceremony lets us send that message directly to the children with no one in between.”

During the ceremony, Maj. Gen. Cucolo spoke of the sacrifices of being a military child.

“You face challenges no other kids’

face; constant moves , new people, new situations, challenge of making new friends, trying to keep old ones over distance,” Maj. Gen Cucolo said.

“You’re experts at unusual and important skills like garage sales, long car rides, sharing, and waiting always waiting, waiting in lines at the commissary or the (Post Exchange) or waiting for your Soldier mom or dad to return from a dangerous place.”

For Vivianaiy, she was only six-years-old when she lost her father, Staff Sgt. Ernesto Cimarrusti.

Her father died while serving in support of OIF on March 10, 2008.

Vivianaiy said a day doesn't go by where she doesn't think of her father.

The ceremony only helps her remember her father, she said.

“My dad is with me



Photos by Spc. Amanda McBride

Vivianaiy Cimarrusti, daughter of Staff Sgt. Ernesto Cimarrusti, receives the Gold Medal of Remembrance from Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo, 3rd ID Commanding General, during a ceremony, July 18 at Cottrell Field.



every day in my heart,” Vivianaiy said.

Though gone, Vivianaiy said she thinks of all the happy and fun times with her father and hopes to make him proud of her.

“I want to make my dad happy,” Vivianaiy said. “I want to be a kid doctor.”

Above right: Children of 3rd ID's fallen heroes were honored in ceremony to recognize children who have lost a parent while serving their nation during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, in a Gold Medal of Remembrance ceremony, July 18 at Cottrell Field.



Right: Madison Mackinnon, daughter of Capt. Michael Mackinnon, receives the Gold Medal of Remembrance from Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo, 3rd ID Commanding General, during a ceremony, July 18 at Cottrell Field.

This week in Marne History: 3ID Takes Palermo, 1LT David Waybur Earns MOH

Dr. Judith Brown
Fort Stewart Museum

Sixty-three years ago, on July 22, 1943, 3rd Infantry Division Soldiers performed an almost impossible feat for an infantry division.

They captured the city of Palermo on the north coast of mountainous Sicily only 12 days after invading it.

At 2 a.m. on July 10, they landed on Sicily’s south coast. At 7 p.m. on July 22, Palermo’s government surrendered to Brig. Gen. William Eagles, the division’s assistant commander.

By 8:30 p.m., 3/7 Inf. troops were guarding the city’s important buildings.

This accomplishment excited the nation, because the 3rd ID got to Palermo before Patton’s tanks. Time magazine wrote, “After seven days’ fighting, the division captured Agrigento...and five days after that its patrols entered Palermo, fully 100 miles to the north.

"The bulk of this latter distance was covered by all three regiments in three days. On the 14th day, the division rested after having slyly gained for [its commanding general, Maj. Gen. Lucien] Truscott one of his most memorable firsts—the entry into Palermo.

"As the various American forces approached Palermo, Patton defined a “blue phase line” just four miles short the city beyond which no infantry excepting patrols, were to go. Patton’s tanks had been chosen to make the victorious entry into the island’s capital.

"This they did, but inside the city

they found the 3d Division's Lt. Col. John Heintges and his entire battalion quietly patrolling the streets.”

This accomplishment would not have been possible, however, without Soldiers like 1st Lt. David Waybur of the 3d Reconnaissance Troop.

His actions a few days earlier near Agrigento, the most important city on the south coast, earned him the Medal of Honor and eliminated what could have been a significant block on the way to Palermo.

Waybur was an unusual Soldier for WWII.

At a time when many did not finish grammar school, he had had two years of college at the University of California, although he had also worked as a grocery clerk and a ranch hand.

Born in Oakland, Calif. in 1919, he was living in nearby Piedmont when he entered the Army as a private in November 1940, probably as a result of the draft that began that year.

By July 17, 1943, he was a first lieutenant and was commanding a platoon in his troop.

That night, he volunteered to lead a three-vehicle patrol into enemy territory near Agrigento to try to contact an isolated Ranger unit.

Waybur knew that the roads were heavily mined and that he could run into traps, but he still went.

At a bridge that the enemy had destroyed, four Italian tanks suddenly cut his patrol off from its support.

Waybur dispersed his vehicles and ordered his men to fire their machine guns.

When their ammunition was

exhausted, and he and most of his men wounded, Waybur took his submachine gun, stood in the moonlight in the direct line of fire and engaged the lead tank.

Firing through its ports, he killed the tank’s crew.

The now driverless tank crashed into the bridge and toppled into the stream-bed.

Waybur sent one of his men for help, got the rest under cover, and withstood fire from the remaining tanks until aid came the next morning.

Waybur was evacuated to North Africa for medical care and received his Medal of Honor there.

As asked, he then returned to the U.S. and worked bond drives.

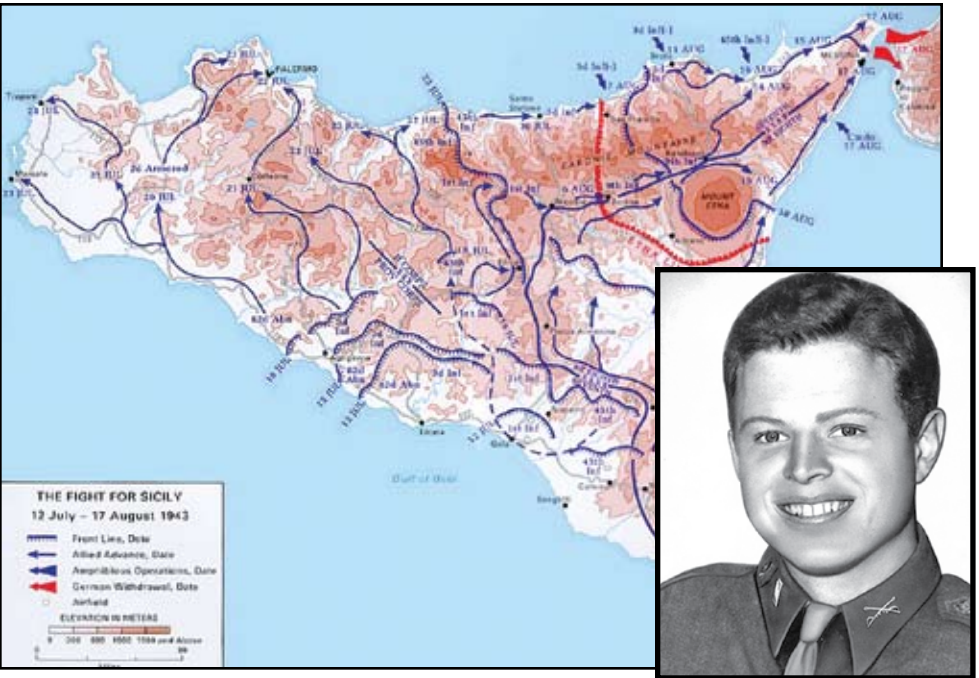
He married, and in 1944 was assigned to the Cavalry School at Fort Riley, KS.

He could have been safe for the rest of the war and had a Veterans Affairs job at its end.

Instead, he asked to return to combat.

On March 28, 1945, 1st Lt. David Waybur was killed in action in Germany.

First Lieutenant Waybur's example shows why the 3rd ID ended World War II with more Medals of Honor awarded to its Soldiers than any other division in the U.S. Army.



Courtesy Photos

First Lieutenant David Waybur (inset), earned a MOH while fighting with the 3/7th Inf. in Sicily, helping his unit take Palermo, July 17, 1944. He was later killed in action while fighting in Germany.

Photos by Spc. Monica Smith

Sergeant Robert Smith, Company C MEDEVAC, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment, is hoisted by a MEDEVAC Black Hawk as Sgt. Matt Gomes, also with C Co., guides the hoist during Falcon Focus, a training exercise at Camp McGregor, Fort Bliss, Texas that concluded, July 2.

Falcon Focus:

CAB completes training at Fort Bliss

Spc. Monica Smith
3rd CAB Public Affairs

The plane landed and emptied its cargo of equipment, baggage and Soldiers. It was the arrival of Task Force Brawler back to Hunter Army Airfield, the last of the 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade's four task forces to participate in Falcon Focus a training event at Fort Bliss, Texas.

"Falcon Focus was the capstone training event in preparation for future deployments," said CAB Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Stidley. "It was a confirmation of the solidity of our multifunction task force at altitude. There's no way to simulate 12,000 feet in south Georgia when the altimeter reading here at Hunter reads 24 feet above sea level."

The training exercise took place at Camp McGregor on Fort Bliss over the course of eight weeks and included each of the CAB's three flight battalions and one squadron. In a change from their traditional configuration, the CAB reconfigured the brigade to create four task forces, each outfitted with aircraft from the other battalions/squadron to make the task forces parallel to one another.

"We had a compressed timeline to train, so we had to prioritize," said Colonel Don Galli, commander of 3rd CAB. "The 3rd CAB took an innovated approach to training by focusing on training individual aircrews. I believe our (high altitude training) and Falcon Focus makes this brigade the best prepared to conduct full spectrum aviation operations during any future deployments."

Each task force was given two weeks to train at Falcon Focus, during which air crews trained on a myriad of skills including air assault insertions, pinnacle landings, live hoists, and all at high altitude. Likewise ground Soldiers participated in combat lifesaver courses, ran mass casualty lanes, endured stress ranges all while continuing to maintain aircraft.

"The training went very well, and I believe for an aviation brigade preparing for future deployments this will be the new training standard as opposed to going to one of the combined training center rotations," said Command Sgt. Maj. Stidley. "We weren't solely focused on air at Falcon Focus. We incorporated convoys, small arms, M9, and real high-intensity combat life savers lanes as opposed to CLS training in a room with plenty of time to get practice done. Falcon Focus was a whole lot more than flying."

During the entirety of the CAB's time at

Falcon Focus, the task forces combined flew more than 2,000 flight hours, almost a thousand missions and expended almost a 50 hellfires. Soldiers trained on live-hoists, conducted downed aircraft recovery team training, and experienced the effects of high altitude on the body and on equipment.

"We learned that training in an environment that closely replicates the environment we will be in is priceless," said Col. Galli. "Falcon Focus provided that environment. Because of this training event our air crews are supremely prepared to take the fight to the enemy at high altitude."

"The amount of home station training before going down to Fort Bliss contributed to the success of Falcon Focus," said Command Sgt. Maj. Stidley. "We didn't go down there to begin training but to verify the training we did here at Hunter and the high altitude training we did in Eagle, Colorado. The training we did before going to Falcon Focus paid large dividends. The Soldiers took what they learned and applied it at McGregor, training the other Soldiers who didn't have the opportunity to train before going."



Above: A Chinook from Co. B, 2nd Bn., 3rd Aviation Regiment, takes off after dropping off Soldiers participating in Falcon Focus, a training exercise at Camp McGregor, Fort Bliss, Texas.



Left: Specialist Matthew Sirard, Co. E, 1st Bn., 3rd Aviation Regt., pulls guard as a Kiowa Warrior with 3rd Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regt. lands on the mountainside near him during Falcon Focus, a training exercise at Camp McGregor, Fort Bliss, Texas.



Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade, 37th Armor Regiment stationed at Fort Bliss are inserted by a Chinook from Company B, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment, while participating in an air assault exercise at Camp McGregor, Fort Bliss, Texas.

BARRACK'S LIFE: Managing your money

Spc. Monica Smith
3rd CAB Public Affairs

It was simultaneously one of the most wonderful and most devastating days in my life. I saw it from a distance but knew instantly what it was: a Kate Spade Outlet. My friends were in the car trying to console me as we passed by, but I was inconsolable.

There it was in all its glory - and I, I had not a dime to spend on the surplus of designer clothes, accessories and home furnishings that waited behind the stylish doors of Kate Spade.

And why did I not have a dime to spend? Well, first because I'm an E-4 who makes much less than she wants to spend but also because I am terrible with money management.

It's true. When I was in college I would drink a glass of wine while I studied before a math test because I would get so anxious I wouldn't be able to sleep after studying. And I cried. A lot. That's just how much I hate dealing with numbers in any form and or fashion.

The responsibility of making payments can be overwhelming to those not prepared. Soldiers have

car payments, insurance, phone, cable and internet bills, college loans to pay off, gas to buy and cute Jimmy Choos to wear (or Wal-Mart \$1 flip flops... both good). And apparently, I'm not the only one with money management problems.

According to an Associated Press review of military records, "thousands of U.S. troops are being barred from overseas duty because they are so deep in debt, they are considered security risks." And Washington Post reporter Thomas Watkins said the number of Soldiers held back has climbed dramatically in the past few years.

Depending on branch of service, security clearances can even be revoked when a servicemember's debt payments reach between 30 and 40 percent of their salary. Many Soldiers depend on their clearance when they leave the Army to find another job. It is in the Army and the individual's best interest to maintain their clearance.



I know my problem began when I spent a large portion of my money on a car when the aviation brigade returned from the last deployment. From there, I knuckle-and-dimed my money away till I got to the point where I was literally living paycheck to paycheck. I had to buckle down and really get a handle on where all my money was going (which was food, surprisingly, not the necessary MAC makeup I wear daily).

There are many causes for financial insecurity among Soldiers beyond lack of financial brilliance and reckless spending.

The abundance of "payday lenders" around posts across the globe also feed into this dilemma. These businesses allow Soldiers to borrow money at extremely high interest rates, which only puts Soldiers more into debt.

As a reformed, spoiled specialist, I urge you to take an account of where you spend your money and what you spend it on. There are plenty of Army organizations that can help you - for free! Talk to your chain of command, they are there to help you.

And if they don't you can call me. I'll help you, but I might charge you a fee. I got bills to pay.

Countdown to Deployment: Legal-ease, please

Jennifer Scales
Fort Stewart Public Affairs

Unless you have been on an island with your head stuck in the sand, you know that the time has come to begin preparing again for the deployment of the 3rd Infantry Division.

So take your first step into the legal world and get those issues done. The top of the list is shared with two items of importance: a Will and a Power of Attorney.

Capt. Kate Tagert, a Fort Stewart legal assistance attorney, highlights that wills are especially important for persons who have children.

"If anything were to happen to you or your spouse, you would want to make sure there is someone like a guardian appointed to take care of your child," said Capt. Tagert. "Single Soldiers need (wills) just as well, so that they can indicate certain items or money they may want directed at someone other than their Family Member. Though it is a subject many don't want to address, if death happens, items and money will go the parents first."

The other item is the Power of Attorney.

"You are selling your Family Members short if you don't have one," said 1st Lieutenant Todd Chard, another legal assistance attorney at Stewart. "You are going to be away, and you need to anticipate what that Family Member is going to need while you are gone."

First Lieutenant Chard went on to explain the two most requested Powers Of Attorney.

"A General Power of Attorney will cover everything. You are trusting the person you are giving it to, and we at

the legal office don't want to see you end up on the short end of the stick because of its misuse."

Chard continued to discuss that the Special Power of Attorney is more specific in relaying what you want done. "The Soldier really just needs to sit down and discuss with the Family Member what is to be done while separated."

One of the most important Powers of Attorney is the Parental Acts Power of Attorney. As the name implies, it gives the holder the ability to conduct parental acts, such as enrollment in schools.

Powers of Attorneys can be done for those Family Members living in another area. Just make sure that they have the original document and not a copy. Most places where the Power of Attorney is used require the original document anyway.

Revocation of a Power of Attorney can occur by one of three ways: getting an official revocation from the legal office, destroying the original, or waiting until it expires in two years.

It does not take a Soldier to initiate a will. Any valid identification card holder can come in to begin the process of a will.

Filing for passports is another integral part of the deployment process, and one that is often overlooked, said 1st Lieutenant Chard.

"During Soldiers (rest and relation), they have the opportunity to go to another country, such as Italy or Australia, instead of back to the States. However, they will need their passports to visit those countries."

Soldiers need to apply for the passport, and be sure to take it with them when they deploy. And having their



Jennifer Scales

First Lieutenant Todd Chard and Capt. Kate Tagert, Fort Stewart legal assistance attorneys, discuss the latest topics planned for briefings and meetings intended to help prepare Soldiers and Family Members for the 3rd ID's pending deployment.

Family Member get a passport should also be counted into the deployment preparation. This way, the Family Member can meet the Soldier in the foreign country during that R & R.

If there are any civil or administrative actions pending for the Soldier, a look should be given to Servicemember Civil Relief Act. Many may reference this back to the Soldiers and Sailors Relief Act, but the SCRA is an expanded and improved version. The SCRA protects by suspending or postponing certain civil obligations to enable service members to devote full attention to duty and relieve stress on the Family Members.

With the protection of the SCRA, Soldiers can break their lease with their landlord because of the pending deployment. All that is needed is a

copy of their orders and a written copy of their termination letter.

Capt. Tagert advises any Soldier to review the document on line or come into the legal office.

"If a Soldier knows they have a civil or administrative act against them, they should come into the office, and we can write the letter for them. However, we cannot postpone child support hearings," said Capt. Tagert. "The Soldier is going to get hit with that even if they are in Iraq and know they owe child support."

At the end of the day though, it is always up to the Soldier.

Both Capt. Tagert and 1st Lt. Chard agree that communication is the key.

"You have to talk to those persons around you, so that you know what they need and vice versa," she said.

Marne Voices Speak Out

Marne Voice asks, Who's your favorite teacher and why?

"Mr. Clint Reed. He helped recognize the potential I had, and moved me up to more challenging math classes."
Sgt. Johnathon Jobson
Special Troops Battalion



"My kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Whitley. Her favorite subject is science and science is my favorite subject too."

Timothy Rice
Family Member



"My 1st grade teacher. She was also my mom's 12th grade teacher. She loved my mom and she treated me like a son."
Chaplain (Maj.) Albert Ghergich
3rd Sustainment Bde. Chaplain



"Ms. Elba Matos. She was a mentor, and she put me on the right track."

Staff Sgt. Joe Padilla
HHC, 4-3rd BSTB



"Wendy Allen. She inspired me to not take shortcuts and taught me everything I know about news."

Spc. Abigail Waldrop
3rd ID Public Affairs



"Lilly Newton. She always taught black history."

Ron Collins
Retired Soldier

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1/76th FA leaders visit McAllister

Spc. Amanda McBride
4th IBCT Public Affairs

With only the sounds of the river in the background, it's hard to imagine the sounds of enemy fire or the hustle and bustle of loading "hot shot guns" with a 32 pound cannon ball on Fort McAllister.

But for leadership from 1st Battalion, 76th Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, the sounds of battles came alive again during a staff ride at Fort McAllister, July 14.

Senior noncommissioned officers and officers spent the day learning about the history of past artillerymen to gain knowledge of the battlefield.

"The purpose of today was to come out to Fort McAllister and help us to continue to develop critical thinking in our senior leaders and conduct a historical analysis of what took place at Fort McAllister in 1863 and 1864," said Lt. Col. LaPorte, commander of 1/76 FA. "And apply those lessons learned from the past to today's operating environment."

Throughout the day designated speakers spoke at different points in the fort to help today's leaders learn from wars of the past and apply lessons learned into today's modern battlefield.

One such station, the Hot Shot Furnace, showed leaders the differences between past artillerymen and artillerymen of today.

"Two leaders discussed the Hot Shot Furnace and this was to show how solid iron cannon balls were heated red hot for use in the hot shot gun," Lt. Col. LaPorte said. "So, they explained the circumstances

back then in the past of Fort McAllister, and we talked about how we could apply this to the way we operate today."

The day allowed battalion leadership an opportunity for present-day artillerymen to walk in the shoes of past artillerymen.

"It allowed Soldiers to critically think about their professions and apply some lesson, like the hot shot furnace, how we heated up cannon balls for a specific purpose back then for damaging wooden ships," Lt. Col. LaPorte said.

"And how we have specialized munitions for the artillery community today."

First Lieutenant Charles Carroll, 1/76 FA Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear officer, led the group around the different stations and helped lead discussions on the difference in supplies, movement



Spc. Amanda McBride

Senior noncommissioned officers and officers from 1/76 FA visit Fort McAllister, July 14 for a day of learning about the history of past artillerymen, learning from wars of the past and applying lessons learned into today's modern battlefield.

and battle planes.

"(The day) allowed 1/76 FA battalion leaders an opportunity to gain firsthand knowledge of people and events of the battlefield and how to analyze data from historical events," he said.

ARMOR

— from Page 1A



Instead of fighting threats such as armored vehicles and heavy truck targets from a distance as was done in the past, the targets are brought in closer and we are shooting primarily enemy troop targets and light wheeled vehicles that would be seen in engagements in Iraq, Capt. Lowe explained.

The Soldiers of Co. A were praised by their leadership for staying focused and putting their all

into the training, even after having spent the prior night conducting table seven.

The Bradley crews of Co. A, 3/69 AR are considered combat ready and preparing for the platoon level qualification during table twelve. After their table twelve the Soldiers will turn their attention to the upcoming National Training Center rotation and following deployment.

Sgt. Johnathon Jobson

Staff Sergeant Joseph Picone and Spc. Autura Lerma watch another Bradley crew conduct table eight qualifications as they wait to conduct the qualification range. As the commander and gunner, respectively, they are watching to see where the other crews are having problems so that they can preemptively correct any actions of their crew.

Right Arm Night recognizes Marne history, heroes

Pat Young
Fort Stewart Public Affairs

Gathering to share camaraderie and information, more than 300 Soldiers, college cadets, and civilian employees met for the 3rd Infantry Division's Right Arm Night, July 17 at Club Stewart.

Third ID Commander, Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo, was on-hand to greet those in attendance and share insight regarding recent events and the historic legacy of the Marne Division. The commander spoke of how today's Marne Soldier share the same indomitable will of their forefathers who lived up to the motto, "Nous Resteron La," We Shall Remain, earning the reputation as the "Rock of the Marne" in 1917, and through its service thereafter until today.

He related how Lt. George P. Hayes, although seven horses were shot out from under him during the Battle for the Marne, did not quit, but endeavored and saved the day, becoming our first Medal of Honor recipient. (See story in July 16 edition of the Frontline, page 2A, online at www.stewart.army.mil.)

Maj. Gen. Cucolo also thanked individuals who went out of their way to make the recent Salute to the Nation, Twilight Tattoo and "Worth Fight For" Fourth of July Celebration special to Soldiers and Families.

Recognized were division event planners Maj. Chris Auclair, and Capt. Rory McGovern; Division

Special Troops Battalion's Sgt. 1st Class Jody Mansford, Sgt. Raymond Irizarry, and Spc. Cardavious Summerall; Ted Lyles, Directorate of Plans Training Maneuver and Security; Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation's Larry Cutchens, Chris Dent, and Susan Chipple; George Story, Directorate of Information Management; Dan South, Directorate of Logistics; Jeff Poulin, Directorate of Public Works, and Public Affairs' Elise van Pool.

Specialist Benjamin Sumser, a medic with 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Division was also singled out by Maj. Gen. Cucolo. Originally from San Francisco, Calif. was presented a full four-year scholarship to Washington State University – Coleman Campus, through the Commander's 'Green to Gold' program. Spc. Sumser said he was surprised when he found out about the award.

"I put in the paperwork in to show that I was trying to improve my life, Spc. Sumser said. "I was preparing to deploy to Iraq again, and didn't expect it."

Sumser said receiving the scholarship was great and recommended others pursue their interest.

"There are opportunities out there," Sumser said. "They are not always handed to you. Sometimes you have to look for them. But it is worth it.

After recognizing Sumser, Maj. Gen. Cucolo also called up Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets who have been assisting at Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield, and thanked them for assisting in the Marne

mission.

Marne Community members are encouraged to learn more about the legacy of the 3rd Infantry Division by reading "This Week in Marne History," published weekly in The Frontline Newspaper, on Page 2A, and join in the camaraderie at the 3rd Infantry Division's Right Arm Nights, each Friday at Club Stewart.



Pat Young

About 40 ROTC cadets were thanked by 3rd ID Commander Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo, July 17 at Club Stewart during Right Arm Night.



Vanguard Dining Facility earns recognition for food service excellence

Spc. Gaelen Lowers

Command Sergeant Major Edd Watson, 1HBCT command sergeant major (far left), and Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo, 3rd ID commander (far right), present Sgt. 1st Class Tuwanda Lewis, former Vanguard Dining Facility noncommissioned officer in charge (left), and Sgt. 1st Class Robin Carter, current Vanguard DFAC NCOIC (right), a plaque as runners-up for the post-level Phillip A. Connelly Award for Food Service Excellence.

Education Matters



Free certification available to Soldiers

The pilot Army Vocational/Technical Soldier Program will fund up to \$4,500 to enroll in non-college degree courses that teach skills tailored for in-demand career fields with certification and licensure exams related to those professions. Soldiers and officers serving on active duty, to include National Guard and Reserve Soldiers on extended active duty, may acquire technical, vocational, or advanced training and re-training.

Several hundred courses are offered for both in-class and on-line programs but must be selected from the schools listed at www.hrc.army.mil/site/education/VOTEC_Program.html and cannot exceed 18 months. In addition, Soldiers can use the AVOTEC Program to pay for Certification/Licensure.

Registration for this program is available through Sept. 30. All information and enrollment steps can be found at the Web site above. Soldiers must have an active account in GoArmyEd to enroll in AVOTEC. Contact your Army Education Center for access to the GoArmyEd Portal. AVOTEC may be used in conjunction with traditional TA, but the combined cost of both programs cannot exceed \$4,500.

Funding now available to spouses

The Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts Program is now called "MyCAA" and is for all military spouses of active duty and activated Guard and Reserve servicemembers worldwide. This centralized, virtual program will provide counseling and funding up to \$6,000, to assist with licensure, certification or educa-

tion opportunities leading to portable employment opportunities; trade programs or college degrees, including the Spouse to Teachers initiative. You may use the school of your choice, either selecting classroom or on-line delivery. All on-post and most area schools participate. See the list of our on-post colleges below.

This process is all done on-line and by phone with Military One Source 1-800-342-9647. For complete details and to initiate an account, click on <https://aiportal.acc.af.mil/mycaa> (see FAQ's).

College registration now open

The upcoming Fall I term dates both on-post and distance learning classes are listed below. Some courses are offered during the day. Please contact the college directly for course schedules and enrollment information.

Central Texas College – 767-2070/ Hunter Airfield, 315-4090, Aug. 10 - Oct. 3.

Columbia College – 767-5336/ Hunter Army Airfield, 352-8635, Aug. 10 - Oct. 3.

Embry Riddle – 767-3930/ Hunter Army Airfield, 352-5252, Aug. 10 - Oct. 11.

Webster University – 767-5357/ Hunter Army Airfield, 354-0033, Aug. 17 - Oct. 17.

CLEP resources available on-line

Be aware of sales people telling you that you can get a college degree by taking the CLEP and then offering overpriced CLEP study materials. It is not necessary to spend thousands to prepare for the College Level

Examination Program. Commercial CLEP study materials by Petersons, ARCO and others are available for free at the Ft. Stewart and Hunter post libraries. You do not need to purchase expensive study materials when they are available for free or for a much lower cost at bookstores or on-line. The education center suggests you go to the following websites: www.freeuniv.com and for a CLEP success book and practice tests, log into www.petersons.com/army. This site is associated with the DoD MWR Libraries and it has a wealth of information for all types of national and military exams. You are encouraged to come by your education center and meet with a professional guidance counselor to find out about all education options, to include testing aid financial aid.

Savannah Tech information offered

Savannah Technical College is offering weekly information sessions to explain their college/certificate/diploma programs and the HOPE/PELL grants. The college representatives will highlight a different program of study every other Tuesday at 2 p.m., room 206, building 100, Ft. Stewart. Upcoming meetings will cover programs offered in Savannah: Culinary Arts on July 28, Welding on Aug 11 and Aviation on Aug 25.

Of special interest to Family Members may be the local Technical Communication Specialist certificate, which enables much of the curriculum to transfer to area colleges. Many required courses for Savannah Tech's programs are taught at the Sgt.1stClass Paul R. Smith Army Education Center. For more information go to www.savannahtech.edu and www.gsfc.org or call 408-2430 at Stewart. You may also contact the Savannah Tech Campus in Hinesville at 408-3024 or in Savannah, 443-5700.

AMU to visit

A representative from American Military University will meet with current or prospective students on Aug 5th from 9-12 a.m. at the education center at Hunter. He will also be at the Sgt.1st Class Paul R. Smith Army Education Center lobby from 1-4 p.m. the same day. You may reach the Mr. Buddy Maertens by calling (803) 865-9786 or fmaertens@apus.edu.

Green-to-Gold briefing slated.

The Green-to-Gold scholarship sessions are held at the installation education centers every month at 2 p.m. Next month briefings are slated for Aug 5 at Fort Stewart and Aug 19 at Hunter.

Trucker certification offered

Bruce Granai, admissions representative with National Training's Truck Driver and Heavy Equipment Operator School, meets with interested Soldiers every Thursday about the school's certification program which is now available through Army Vocational/Technical Pilot Program.

Granai will be at Wedgy's Pizza, 364 Memorial Dr. in Hinesville, each Thursday between noon until 5 p.m. You may contact him in advance at (800)488-7364 ext. 245/ (904)307-6952, or by going to www.truckschool.com or www.earthmoverschool.com.

Post 9/11 GI Bill: Am I eligible?

The Post 9/11 GI Bill provides financial support for education and housing to individuals with at least 90 days of aggregate service on or after Sept. 11, 2001, or individuals discharged with a service-connected disability. You must have received an honorable discharge to be eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill. VA has the final determination regarding eligibility. Application: VA Form 22-1990 is available at the Web site: vabenefits.vba.va.gov/.

Am I eligible to transfer benefits?

Any member of the Armed Forces (active duty or Selected Reserve, officer or enlisted) on or after August 1, 2009, who is eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill, and:

- *Has at least 6 years of service in the Armed Forces on the transfer date and agrees to serve 4 additional years in the Armed Forces from the date of election.

- *Has at least 10 years of service in the Armed Forces (active duty and/or selected reserve) on the date of election, is precluded by either standard policy (service or DoD) or statute from committing to 4 additional years, and agrees to serve for the maximum amount of time allowed.

- * Is not flagged for adverse action.

Steps to Transfer Benefits:

- *Soldier must use CAC and log into www.dmdc.osd.mil.

- *Soldier must read and acknowledge all statements regarding transfer – the transfer request is an IRREVOCABLE decision to move from prior MGIB benefits into the Post 9/11 MGIB.

- *Click eligible Family Member (DEERS

enrolled).

- *List number of months transferred for each Family Member (total is 36 months – can be shared among dependents but total cannot exceed 36 months).

- *Enter start and end date for benefit (cannot be prior to August 1, 2009 – end date stops payments even if months remain).

- *Verify REVOKE is unchecked and hit Save.

- *Repeat steps for each Family Member.

- *No confirmation is sent – you can review your status on the Web site until updated as Approved.

- *Once approved, the Family Member completes the VA Form 1990-E at the following Web site: vabenefits.vba.va.gov/.

Notes:

- Application processing order: Approved Retirees, Fall 2009 college attendees, all others.

- Tuition paid directly to institution – not Soldier or Family Member.

- Spouse can use benefits after Soldier has 6 years of service. No monthly stipend for AD Spouses.

- Child can use benefits after Soldier has 10 years of service.

- Service obligation begins date submitted – not approval date.

- Monthly stipend not paid to AD Soldiers, for half time or less, or solely distance learning programs.

- Soldier and Family Member liable for overpayment reimbursements to VA.

For more information, call 1-888-442-4551 or visit www.gibill.va.gov.

Aquatic exercise program offered

Splashing with a Purpose takes place at Summer Waves each Monday, Wednesday and Friday as aquatic exercise programs are offered at the water park.

Residents and visitors will have the opportunity to get fit with a certified instructor from the Aquatic Exercise Association.

Participants will be guided through activities such as swimming laps in the wave pool and walking in the lazy river against the current for a cardio workout.

Anyone can take part in the exercise program with a month-long pass for \$50, or a single day pass for \$5. The classes will last one hour per day from 8 a.m. - 9 a.m.

The Aquatic Exercise programs will run until the end of July.

The program may be extended based on the interest of participants.

For more information about the aquatic exercise programs at Summer Waves, call 635-2074.

Stewart

East 7th Street permanently closed

East 7th St. between French Road and Niles Ave. is permanently closed due to the construction of the new Soldier Family Assistance Center.

Detour signs and traffic control devices will be displayed for the duration of the construction.

Motorists are encouraged to avoid this area to minimize traffic congestion and to be alert to changes in traffic patterns around the area. Call 228-7451 for more information.

Blood Drive slated at DOL

Directorate of Logistics is hosting a blood drive, 8 a.m. to noon July 31 at building 2916 on Fort Stewart. The American Red Cross is currently operating on emergency supplies and desperately needs donors to meet their requirements. Individuals interested in making an appointment may contact Shala Mapp or Kristy Griffen at 435-0390/0137 or shala.c.mapp@us.army.mil or Kristina.griffen@us.army.mil.

Shop of the Marne hosts Open House

Shop of the Marne will host an Open House 5 p.m. - 9 p.m., Aug. 21. It is a Back to School Blow Out Event and will feature door prizes, drawings, giveaways, new merchandise, discounted merchandise and refreshments. Meet and greet OSC Board Members, browse and shop our unique and hand-crafted gift items throughout the store. All proceeds go to "OSC Ways and Means" for the Fort Stewart Army Scholarship Fund. Everyone is invited to come and shop! Call 767-9268 for more information.

Hero Road closed

DPW will be closing a section of Hero Road at the intersection of Davis and the electrical substation from 7 a.m., July 25 until 7 a.m. July 26. The closing is necessary to replace a storm drain pipe under Hero Road. A detour route will be provided during this closure. Motorists are encouraged to avoid this area to minimize traffic congestion and to be alert to changes in traffic patterns. POC regarding additional information relative to the above is Wilton B. Bradley at 767-9451.

Hunter severe weather briefing slated

Brief Hunter Army Airfield garrison will conduct a Hurricane/Severe Weather Awareness brief for Soldiers, Family members, Family Readiness Groups and Department of the Army Civilians 9 - 10 a.m., July 30 at Hunter Club, building 6015,

For information or to schedule a brief for your FRG, Unit or Directorate at Hunter Army Airfield, call Leandre Anderson or Abraham Howell, 315-6904 or 315-5686.

Hunter

Billy Mitchell Boulevard closed

Billy Mitchell Blvd. is closed for construction south of its southernmost entrance to Tominac Fitness Center to its intersection with Hickam Blvd. Billy Mitchell Blvd. is also closed at its intersection with William Barksdale Circle.

Hunter Gas Kiosk Grand Opening

8 a.m. Aug 3

8804 South Perimeter Rd.
(by Rio Gate)

AAFES invites everyone for cake cutting, prizes, wine tasting, drawings, balloon pop for discounts, giveaways, and much more!

Youth wanted for deployment interviews

Jennifer Scales

Fort Stewart Public Affairs

Is your mom or dad heading out for another deployment? You knew it was coming, but are you really ready to have them miss another birthday, football game, your first prom night, or even graduation?

Just how do you really feel?

Now the youth of the installation are asked to come forward and share their emotions with others through a national military study. If you are between the age of 11-17 years old, Forces Command and the Army War College want to hear your honest feelings. Volunteer

youth in the above ages, who have a mother or father assigned to Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield are needed for face-to-face interviews that will be held at the Fort Stewart Main Post Chapel, July 30 beginning at 10 a.m. After the interview, stay and enjoy a free lunch provided for all volunteers.

So no matter if your parent is private or sergeant major, lieutenant or general, come out and tell your story. The words you share could help another person who may be going through the same feelings. To sign up, please contact Curtis Velasco at 435-9671 or Master Sgt. Watson at 435-9539.

Construction Notice

Drainage improvement slated

Work will be performed July 20-25 for a drainage culvert replacement at the GA Hwy 144 East - mile marker 984 (east of Gate #5, near the new EOD Complex). During this time, the traffic on GA Hwy 144 East will be reduced to one lane. Please be aware of flagmen and expect delays.

For more information, please contact the DPW Environmental Division at 767-2010.

ROAD CLOSURE

Beginning 7:30, July 27 until 5 p.m. on Sept. 14, Troupe Gate (Gate #2) traffic will be reduced to one lane. Subject closure is necessary for the demolition and new construction of the Access Control Point. Detour signs and traffic control devices will be displayed and posted for the closure duration.

Motorists are encouraged to avoid this area to minimize traffic congestion and to be alert to changes in traffic patterns around the area.

Call Daryl Jackson, Corps of Engineers, at 767-4725 for more information.

We appreciate your patience during this construction effort.

2/7 Inf tugs at realism during gunnery

Sgt. Johnathon Jobson
1HBCT Public Affairs

The leadership of 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry

Division, decided to give their Soldiers a more realistic training scenario for last week's table twelve Bradley gunnery. The Soldiers from 2/7 Inf. did more than just simulate a live-fire attack on a target for their

training. "The normal scenario would be just one platoon conducting its live fire attack," explained Lt. Col. Gregory Sierra, commander of 2/7 Inf. "We have tried to develop a multi echelon approach that will better prepare us for what we will see in theater."

In the new scenario, as one platoon was preparing to conduct it's live-fire attack, another platoon was conducting security operations for a provincial reconnaissance team in another "village." As they were providing security, there is a suicide bomber that detonated his bomb in the market of the village.

The security platoon then had to shift from being a security force to a response force to assist the Iraqi Police in handling the situation. While all of this was going on, the company received an intelligence report with information from a Family Member of one of the Iraqis in the village about the location of the extremist cell that sent the suicide bomber.

This intelligence along with

information gathered by the Soldiers in the marketplace was then sent to the platoon that was preparing for their live fire attack and was used by the platoon to drive their mission to attack the location of the extremist cell.

"We created a scenario that we thought we could truly face with provide security for the PRT and having to really focus on the ideal solution, which in this part of the operation is going to the Iraqi Police and saying 'You have a problem, how can we help you solve this problem?'," said Lt. Col Sierra. "That is what we want out of this and it will help prepare is for what we will be doing in theater."

The Soldiers from the battalion who had deployed before agreed that this training was the most realistic training that they have received to date, and that this scenario was one that they are likely to face during their next deployment.

The companies of 2/7 Inf. continue to prepare for the battalion's next deployment. With each training event they are a step closer to perfecting their skills and become more prepared for whatever mission lies ahead.



Sgt. Johnathon Jobson

Soldiers from 2/7 Inf. Bn. role play as Iraqi citizens and police during the battalions Bradley table twelve, July 13. The Soldiers were creating a mock market place for the scenario that other Soldiers from the battalion were using as their basis for operations.

NCOs honored in ceremony

Sergeants Jason Simas, Aaron Lovato and Alexander Nathan-Marsh, assigned to 1st Battalion, 76th Field Artillery, sing the Dog Face Soldier song, during a non-commissioned officer induction ceremony, July 17 at Woodruff Theater. Sergeants Simas, Lovato and Nathan-Marsh, along with other recently inducted NCOs, show their pride after officially being accepted into the ranks of the Army Noncommissioned Corps.



Spc. Amanda McBride



Ft. Stewart/Hunter Morale, Welfare & Recreation

“Operation Rising Star” Competition Registration Deadline 31 July – Rocky’s, Bldg 703

Installation competition offers a chance for a Stewart/Hunter singers to advance to Army level televised finals of Operation Rising Star. Compete for a chance to win the ultimate recording music experience. Round one will be held from 7-9 p.m. 6 Aug. and the finals 27 Aug. Singers must be Active Duty, Reserve, National Guard or Military Family Members (ages 18 & older). Audience members eligible to vote and win prizes too! Most supportive unit or FRG awarded prize, as well. For details, call 767-4316.

Painting Booth, Alignment Equipment Available @ FS Libby Auto Craft – 929 W. 6th Street

The painting booth and alignment machine are available for use at Libby Auto Craft on Fort Stewart. The booth and the alignment equipment had been inoperable for an extended period of time. Libby Auto Craft offers Soldiers and retired military who want to work on their own vehicles the equipment, tools, space and expertise they need to complete the task. The cost for the paint booth is \$75 per day or \$10 per hour. Alignment fees are \$20 for a suspension check, \$40 for a two-wheel, \$60 for a four-wheel and \$80 for altered suspension alignment. The shop is open Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays from 1-8:30 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The shop is closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays and on all Federal holidays. For more information, call 767-3521.

All Ladies Adventure Golf Class @ Corkan

2 Aug., 5-7 p.m. – Cypress Creek Adventure Golf, Bldg 448

Ladies, here's a chance to get out with the girls and learn to play Adventure Golf. We'll teach you how to hold the club, score and try that great putt. Impress everyone with your miniature golf skills. Cost \$2 per lady. 767-9884

Back to School Block Party @ FS

3 Aug., Noon-6 p.m – Youth Center, Bldg 7338

It's back to school time, so come out and have some fun with your friends! Food, games, prizes, music, sports and much more. No admission charge. For details, call 767-4491.

‘Stick Horse Rodeo’ at FS Library

5 Aug., 3:30 p.m. – George P. Hays Library, Bldg 411

“Stick Horse Rodeo” marks the end of the Summer Reading Program, whose theme is “Wild, Wild, West, Saddle Up and Read.” Event will be in grassy area between Library and Hawks Clinic. Children can bring a stick pony/horse or borrow one of ours for outdoor races, other fun things. 767-2828

Italian Sunday Brunch @ HAAF

9 Aug., 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. – Hunter Club, Bldg 6015

Menu will feature breakfast items; pasta station: bowtie pasta with spinach, mushrooms and marinara sauce, mozzarella and tomato with basil, penne with vegetables and Alfredo sauce; garlic bread, lasagna, Italian sausage with peppers and onions, chicken parmesan, Italian vegetables, roasted potatoes, assorted desserts and a wine-tasting. Cost \$11.95 per person, children ages 5-10 half price and ages 4 and under free. 459-7923

2009 Taylors Creek Golf Course Annual Club Championship

**20 Aug. Sign-up Deadline; Championship 22-23 Aug.
Taylors Creek Golf Course, Bldg 2150**

This 36-hole stroke play competition will determine the Taylors Creek champion. Five Divisions: ladies, junior, senior (ages 50-64), super senior (ages 65 & older), and open. Trophies awarded to top finishers in each division. Fees: \$60 (Hunter & Taylors Creek Golf Club members), \$70 (Active Duty, Retirees, DoD Civilians), and \$80 (civilian guests). Fees include greens and golf car fees and trophies. 767-2370

Alpha Company, STB goes 36 months DUI-free

Spc. Gaelen Lowers

3rd Sustainment Bde. Public Affairs

Going 180 days without a DUI is a major accomplishment for any company in the Army.

According to Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo, commanding general for the 3rd Infantry Division, approximately 25 companies on Fort Stewart have received the DUI-free streamer.

Of those companies, approximately five have been taken back due to unfavorable actions, but to Company A, 3rd Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, going 180-days DUI-free and staying that way is just another day in the office.

The unit has been DUI-free since its inception June 23, 2006, said A Co. 1st Sgt. Rouse Payne.

"I attribute it to the battle buddy factor," 1st Sgt. Payne said. "Soldiers are taking care of Soldiers. Every day, everyone needs to be a safety officer. We are Soldiers, but we are also civilians."

Captain Charles Ester, A Co. commander, agreed with his first sergeant but also gave him a lot of credit for working so closely with the Soldiers.

"I'm impressed that Soldiers are taking care of themselves and taking care of one another," said

Capt. Ester. "I attribute it to the Soldiers and 1st Sgt. Payne. He has laid great groundwork down since the company stood up."

First Sergeant Payne compares the Soldiers in A Co. to a Family, reminding them that Families take care of each other, especially in times of need.

Losing a Soldier or a Family Member can result in great heartache, he said.

"If one of your Family Members is hurt, that takes away from your mission," said 1st Sgt. Payne. "You can't be 100 percent in your mission."

Every week, the company gives their Soldiers safety briefs and preaches the "no drinking and driving" policies set in place by themselves, the battalion, the brigade and the Army itself, said Capt. Ester.

If an A Co. Soldier does find himself in a precarious situation where he has no ride home, he has a whole chain of command that he can call and receive help from, said 1st Sgt. Payne.

"Don't hesitate to call the first sergeant," said 1st Sgt. Payne. "Yeah, the first sergeant is going to rag on you a bit, but it's better that the first sergeant rags on you than for him to get a call from the [military police] station or Hinesville's finest for him to come get his Soldier."

For the Soldiers that continue to do the right thing, they are awarded for their good behavior.

"If the Soldiers go three or four weeks without getting into trouble, I like to hold a company barbeque or a dress-down Friday," 1st Sgt. Payne said. "The biggest reward for not drinking and driving is prolonging your career. If you prolong your career, you get promoted. With promotions comes added money. With added money, you can buy bigger things. If you mess it up and you have a Family, then you are taking away from your wife and kids."

Three years DUI-free is a credit to the Soldiers. The real credit, said Capt. Ester, lies with the non-commissioned officers.

They are always talking with the Soldiers, urging them to take responsibility for themselves and their battle buddies.

Company A is proud of who they are and what they do, said 1st Sgt. Payne.

"First and foremost, Alpha Company Soldiers are signal Soldiers," 1st Sgt. Payne said. "They all talk about us, but can't talk without us. We are also a Family, one that always takes care of their own."

Several leading causes of fire explained

Tom Cadigan

Fire Inspector Hunter Army Airfield

There are several causes that are included in the residential group, which I'll cover in this article with warnings and suggestions that will keep you and your Family safe and can also be applied in the work place.

Electrical fires: Home fires involve premise wiring, lamps, light fixtures, light bulbs, cords and plugs in a nut shell.

Warning signs that you must not ignore are things like recurring problems with blowing fuses or tripping circuit breakers, a tingling feeling when you touch an electrical appliance, discolored or warm wall outlets, a burning smell or rubbery odor coming from an appliance, flickering lights or sparks from an outlet.

If you encounter any of these problems, call a qualified electrician or landlord.

Fires involving grills, propane

and charcoal: Many more people today are grilling year round. You can check the tank hose for leaks by applying a light soap and water solution to it. A propane leak will release bubbles.

If you detect a gas leak in your tank hose, by smell or the soapy bubble test, don't use it until it is repaired. Insure that grills are placed well away from anything that can burn such as wood, paper, plastic.

Remove any grease build-up from drip trays and never leave the grill unattended while cooking. Be extra cautious when using turkey fryers.

Candle fires: The pattern on home candle fires consists of it igniting combustibles close by such as furniture, mattresses or bedding, curtains, or decorations, and also pets knocking it over. Using as candle as a light source when the electricity goes out is dangerous. Never leave them unattended. The recent trend is that home fires started by candles are declining.

ing.

Others: Portable space heaters, children playing with fire, lightning strikes and fires, fireworks, tobacco products, home medical oxygen, Christmas trees and holiday lights, extension cords being used in place of permanent wiring and unattended cooking are other areas for concern. Call the Fire Prevention office at 315-5075 (Hunter) or 767-7006 (FS) if you have any questions regarding any of these.

Remember: Test your smoke alarms regularly. Put a lid on grease fires then turn off the burner.

Store gasoline in a safe place. Keep paper and cloth towels away from the stove top, conduct home fire drills. Give a live Christmas tree

plenty of water. Keep toys or games, boxes, bags and oily rags away from any heat sources. Lastly, remember, housekeeping is a key to fire prevention.



United States Army Criminal Investigation Command

Seeking qualified candidates to become CID Special Agents

Next recruitment briefing will be held at Hunter Army Airfield, July 28 at 10 a.m. in room 25 at the Hunter Education Center.

To apply or for more information, visit www.cid.army.mil or contact your local CID office at:

**70 Billy Mitchell Blvd, Building #100
Hunter Army Airfield, GA 31419
DSN 870-6686 or COM (912)315-6686**

JAG officers program offered

The Office of The Judge Advocate General is now accepting applications for the Army's Funded Legal Education Program. This program is open to active duty commissioned officers in the rank of second lieutenant through captain who wish to attend law school at the government's expense. Applicants must have at least two but not more than six years of total active federal service at the time legal training begins.

Eligible officers interested in applying should immediately register for the earliest offering of the Law School Admission Test. Applicants must send their request through command channels, to include the officer's branch manager at AHRC, with a copy furnished to the Office of the Judge Advocate General, ATTN: DAJA-PT (Yvonne Caron-10th Floor), 1777 North Kent Street, Rosslyn, Va. 22209-2194, to be received before Nov. 1.

Interested officers should contact Col. Jonathan C. Guden, staff judge advocate, at 767-2374 for more information.

LEGAL NOTICE

Anyone having claims against, or who is indebted to the estate of **Spc. Necco R. McCraw**, 110th Transportation Company, Hunter Army Airfield, Ga., 31409, please contact 2nd Lt. Lovetta L. Tate, 416th Transportation Company, Hunter Army Airfield, Ga., 31409; (912) 315-8650.

Anyone having claims against, or who is indebted to the estate of **Sgt. Rodney Wayne Broderson II**, Troop C, 6/8 Cav., 4th IBCT, 3rd ID, Fort Stewart, Ga., 31314, please contact 1st Lt. Zonie Daniels IV, Alpha Troop, 6/8 Cav., 4IBCT, 3rd ID, Fort Stewart, Ga., 31314; (912) 767-4857.

Anyone having claims against, or who is indebted to the estate of **Sgt. Michael G. Bielamowicz**, HHC, 3rd Battalion, 160th SOAR (A), Hunter AAF, Ga., 31409, please contact, Capt. Evans, HHC, 3rd Battalion, 160th SOAR 9A), Hunter AAF, Ga., 31409, phone; (912) 315-7112.

\$500 REWARD OFFERED

A reward of \$500 is being offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person(s) responsible for the larceny of four Panasonic, 42-inch plasma televisions, which occurred between April 12 and 13, from a storage cage in building 3012, West 15th St., Fort Stewart, Ga., 31314. Anyone with information concerning this matter are encouraged to call the Fort Stewart CID Office, 30th



MP DET (CID), 3rd MP Group (CID), Fort Stewart, Ga. at 767-5030, or the Military Police Desk, Fort Stewart, Ga., 767-4895 or 767-4895. The reward expires April 20, 2010.

Anyone having knowledge of the incident, but not wishing to be identified, will be briefed on available options in maintaining their confidentiality.

The payout of cash rewards to military and federal employees for information leading to a conviction is contingent upon exceptional actions regarding the information provided.

The reward expires May 29, 2010.

\$1,000 REWARD OFFERED

A reward of \$1,000 is being offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person(s) responsible for an armed robbery, which occurred Oct. 24, 2008 at building 3004, Fort Stewart, Ga., 31314.

Anyone having knowledge of the incident, but not wishing to be identified, will be briefed on available options in maintaining



their confidentiality.

The payout of cash rewards to military and federal employees for

information leading to a conviction is contingent upon exceptional actions regarding the information provided.

Those with information concerning this matter are encouraged to call the U.S. Army CID office located at Fort Stewart, Ga. at 767-5030, or the Military Police Desk, Fort Stewart, Ga. at 767-4895. The reward expires April 20, 2010.

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STB Soldiers test Improved Outer Tactical Vest

Spc. Amanda McBride

41BCT Public Affairs

Prior to any deployment, Soldiers learn the ins and outs of every piece of their equipment and gear they have before they deploy.

And it is no different for Soldiers assigned to Headquarters, Headquarter Operations Company, Special Troops Battalion, who were recently issued the Improved Outer Tactical Vest, July 9.

The IOTV is one of the latest advancements in military gear designed to better provide body armor coverage on a Soldiers body. Like most gear, the IOTV is used to help protect Soldiers while in a combat situation and also designed for emergency removal.

"The key improvement over the old (Outer Tactical Vest) is that (Soldiers) are able to extract themselves from the vest quickly as opposed to maybe having to cut themselves free from the vest if it ever gets snagged on something or there in a situation where they just can't unstuck," said Terence Hensey, new equipment

training instructor.

Though new, the vest still has the weave slots making most of the pouches from the OTV compatible with the IOTV, which makes it easier for Soldiers to switch to the IOTV.

"Items that carry forward from the old vest are the enhanced small arm protective inserts, the sappy plates, side plates," Hensey said. "The most current plates offer protection against armor piercing 7.62 rounds."

With improvements on IOTV, Soldiers are getting issued new the vest designed to better protect their torso area.

The weight of

the vest is designed to be carried by the lower abdomen, hips and thighs as opposed to hanging off the shoulders and spine, Hensey said.

"The older vest didn't fit in a way that was very comfortable to the Soldiers and they found that most of the weight of the vest was carried by the shoulders and the spine," he said.

"This vest comes in 11 different sizes and it fits much better, adjust much better to the Soldier who wears it."

After being issued the IOTV, STB Soldiers received a class on how to fit, wear and maintain their vest.

Weighing three to six pounds

lighter than the OTV, most Soldiers going through the class think the IOTV is a good vest.

"They like the way it wears, it wears (better)," Hensey said. "They feel that they will be able to actually sight with their weapon better and fire their weapon better with this system."

Sergeant First Class Carlos E. Rodriguez, assigned to the 3rd Infantry Division Provost Marshall Office operations noncommissioned officer, said that the IOTV is a great improvement on weight and wear than previous vests.

"This vest is light and fits properly for today's urban type movement," Sgt. 1st Class Rodriguez said. "(It is) light, covers more vital area, and it moves with you."

The Santurce, Puerto Rico native also believed that it helps Soldiers better understand the vest when also helps being shown the proper way to wear the vest.

"For it to fit and be properly worn for protection you must know exactly how to wear it properly," Sgt. 1st Class Rodriguez said.



Spc. Amanda McBride

Staff Sergeant Daryl Lee, Headquarters, Headquarter Operations Company, Special Troops Battalion, replaces the front chest plate in the Improved Outer Tactical Vest, July 9.

DEDICATION

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After the ceremony, Paulina Richards, mother of Spc. Hernandez, addressed her son's platoon.

She mentioned how several of her son's fellow Soldiers told her that her son was always laughing and yet always charging them to be better Soldiers, better people.

She also reassured the unit that the tears that they saw on her and her Family's faces were not tears of the fact he is gone, but only because of the fact that they will miss him.

They know that he is watching over them and the unit right now.

"My Family and I would like to thank you for being his extended family," said Richards. "We couldn't be out there with him in Afghanistan. For you just being there for him, we thank you."

The ceremony wasn't all tears, however. Maj. Gen. Cucolo reminded the attendees that the day was about remembrance as well. Every tree and every stone

on Warriors Walk tells a story, and when someone stands in front of each, there is a memory, a spirit, the very image of an American Soldier who is also a person, an individual, whose individuality makes him or her that much more special to the Army Family, he said.

"Tonight is also part closure and part commitment," said Maj. Gen. Cucolo. "Closure by knowing that placing their names on this hallowed ground with their 418 brothers and sisters who deployed and did not return that they will never be forgotten."

"Perhaps that every American that strolls past their tree for years to come will read the names of Spc. Robert Hernandez and Spc. Jonathan O'Neill and listen carefully for their story and perhaps whisper, 'Thank you.'"

"And commitment for all of us to leave this ceremony determined to live our own lives worthy of their great sacrifice. Lest we forget."



Spc. Gaelen Lowers

Soldiers with the 549th MP Co., 385th MP Bn., 3rd Sustainment Bde., wait to pay their respects to their two fallen comrades who were killed during an IED attack on their vehicle in Afghanistan.

3/69th Armor celebrates regimental birthday

Sgt. Johnathon Jobson

1HBCT Public Affairs

Soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, gathered at the Red cloud - Alpha range, July 15 to celebrate the 69th Armor Regiment's 69th birthday.

Former Soldiers of the regiment and many local veterans groups also attended the celebration.

The attendees were given a historical background of the regiment and

its battalions by 1st Lt. Travis Armstrong, one of the battalion supply officers.

"One of the things I really enjoyed about it was the fact that we were able to tie in the lineage of not only the Marne Division, but also the 69th Armor Regiment and talk about the Soldiers of old," said Lt. Col. Jesse Robinson, commander of 3/69th Armor.

Following 1st Lt. Armstrong's speech, an Abrams tank crew and a Bradley fighting vehicle crew gave demonstrations of their vehicle's

capabilities.

"I was very proud to be here," said Capt. (Ret.) John Stovall, the president of the 69th Armor Regiment Association, said.

"It's thrilling to know and see the training that's going on."

After the demonstrations, the Soldiers and their Families were released to view the static displays of the battalion's vehicles and weapons.

They also eat lunch and participated in the festivities and games that were provided for the children.

"You can tell by the attendance of the Families, how much they support the Soldiers," said Capt. (Ret.) Stovall.

The Soldiers of the Speed and Power Battalion were able to take a much deserved day off from training to celebrate their unit's history and spend time with their Families.

As the battalion and regiment grow older their history continues to grow stronger and the Soldiers of the battalion strive to make sure the future is a good one.



Below: Edward Garner climbs out of an M1A1 Abrams tank that was on display during 3/69 AR's celebration of the 69th Armor Regiment's 69th birthday, July 15.



Photos by Sgt. Johnathon Jobson

Above: An Abrams tank crew from 3/69 Armor Battalion provides a demonstration of the tanks capabilities for Soldiers, veterans and their Families during the 69th AR Regt. birthday celebration.